

fattest bird I have ever seen ; a thick layer of soft white fat covered the whole body.

“ During the two following nights we were at Emkiseni, her mate, poor thing, occupied the fig-tree over my tent, and all night long kept up a booming ‘ Oo-oo,’ deep and full-toned.

“ Judging from the size and powerful talons and beak of this Owl, one would suppose its prey to be tolerably large game. There is no game, however, at Emkiseni, except Guinea-fowl (very plentiful ; I shot three round our camp), a few hares, and a very few Partridges, with here and there an antelope (*Cephalophus* sp. inc.) weighing about 35 lbs. or so, and some very small mammals and snakes.

“ Some of my men told me that this Owl eats caterpillars, but I cannot say whether this is a fact ; they also told me it eats snakes.

“ The Wahenga, Wankamanga, and Watumbuka (who are the *original* inhabitants of this neighbourhood ; the Angoni are their conquerors and hold their country) call this Owl ‘ Kwita ’ ; they regard it, and all Owls, with superstition : they say it is ‘ Chyuni cha uhawi ’ = ‘ A bird of witchcraft ’ ; that, if it perches on a housetop, it forebodes death.”

XLIV.—*Additional Observations on the Birds of the Province of Fohkien* *. By C. B. RICKETT and J. D. DE LA TOUCHE. With Notes by W. R. OGILVIE GRANT.

As some of the birds we have obtained of late are of more or less interest as occurring in this district, we append lists of the same, which we hope may prove of interest.

Last November we sent our native collectors to Kuatun, a village about 270 miles from Foochow, on the mountains at the extreme north-west of this province, and on the borders of that of Kiangsi. The village, according to Père David, stands some 3000–4000 feet above the sea, the mountain it is situated on being some 3000 feet higher and covered with forest.

* Cf. Ibis, 1892, pp. 400–430 & 477–503 ; and 1894, pp. 215–226.

Our men brought back some 200 odd skins, of 66 species, the most interesting of which will be found given in List No. 1. The other places named in this list are situated on the river Min, and are (roughly) distant from Foochow as follows:—

Shui kou . . .	about	70 miles.
Yen Ping Fu . .	„	140 „
Hsia Yang . .	„	170 „
Shao wu Fu . .	„	250 „

From the latter place to Kuatun the road lies across the mountains.

LIST No. 1.

Birds from Kuatun, &c., Fohkien, China.

Name of Species.	Month.	Locality.
<i>Garrulax picticollis</i>	Dec.	Kuatun.
<i>Suthora webbiana</i>	„	Do.
<i>Cinclus pallasi</i>	„	Do.
<i>Henicurus guttatus</i>	„	Do.
<i>Phylloscopus reguloides</i>	Nov.	Hsia Yang.
<i>Machlolophus rex</i>	Dec.	Shao wu Fu and Kuatun.
<i>Parus venustus</i>	Nov. & Dec.	Hsia Yang, Kuatun, and Shao wu Fu.
<i>Parus pekinensis</i>	Dec.	Kuatun.
<i>Sitta sinensis</i>	„	Do.
<i>Pycnonotus xanthorrhous</i>	„	Shao wu Fu.
<i>Pericrocotus speciosus</i>	„	Hsia Yang.
<i>Poliomyias luteola</i>	Nov.	Yen Ping Fu and Hsia Yang.
<i>Herpornis tyrannulus</i>	Dec.	Between Shao wu Fu and Kuatun.
<i>Spizaetus nipalensis</i>	„	Shao wu Fu.
<i>Clangula glaucion</i>	„	Do.
<i>Pucrasia darwini</i>	„	Kuatun.
<i>Amaurornis akool</i>	„	Between Yen Ping Fu and Shao wu Fu.

HERPORNIS TYRANNULUS, Swinhoe.

This species has hitherto, we believe, been recorded from Formosa and Hainan only. As we are not quite sure of our identification, we append a description of the only specimen obtained. It was shot between Shao wu Fu and Kuatun in December. It was marked by our collectors as a female, and measures—wing 2·4 inches, culmen ·4, tarsus ·6.

Feathers round eye very light greenish grey. Lores, cheeks, and ear-coverts grey, these last tinged with green. Upper parts yellowish green, lighter on rump and upper tail-coverts. Crest-feathers dark-centred. Wing-coverts same as back; the lesser somewhat darker. Quills blackish brown, edged externally with yellowish green. Inner web of first primary edged with yellow at the base, each succeeding feather with a greater extent of yellow edging. Secondaries with the whole of the inner webs yellow-edged. Under wing-coverts yellowish white. Axillaries very pale grey, tinged with yellow. Tail yellowish green, brighter than the back, all but the two central feathers edged internally with greenish yellow. Underparts pale ashy grey, paler on the throat and middle of the breast. Belly slightly tinged with green. Under tail-coverts greenish yellow.

[This description agrees perfectly with typical *H. tyrannulus*, Swinh., but, as pointed out by Dr. Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. vii. p. 637, that is merely a slightly smaller race of *H. xantholeuca*, and it seems to me very doubtful whether it is worthy of even subspecific rank.—W. R. O. G.]

† HENICURUS GUTTATUS, Gould.

This species is, we think, new to the China list.

[Dr. Sharpe mentions "Southern China" in giving the habitat of this species, but apparently there is no authority for this statement.—W. R. O. G.]

† PHYLLOSCOPUS REGULOIDES (Blyth).

Rickett shot a specimen of this bird here in October, and our men brought back a November specimen from Hsia Yang. We describe them as follows:—♂, wing 2.25 inches; ♀, wing 2.15. Second primary about equal to ninth; third, fourth, and fifth nearly equal. Back and scapulars bright olive-green; rump and upper tail-coverts brighter. Top of head olive-green, with a broad pale median streak. Nape of a much darker colour, contrasting strongly with the head and back. Supercilium yellow and extending to the nape. A dark stripe through the lores and eyes. Cheeks and ear-coverts greenish yellow, brighter just under the eye-

stripe. Lesser wing-coverts light olive-green; greater darker, and with paler edges. Tips of median and greater coverts yellow, forming two wing-bars, of which the upper is the less conspicuous. Quills brown, edged externally with olive-green; those on primaries paler. Edge of wing, under wing-coverts, and axillaries bright yellow. Middle tail-feathers olive-green; rest brown, tinged and edged externally with olive-green, and narrowly margined internally with yellowish white. Underparts greyish white, more or less suffused with yellow. Middle of belly whitish. Under tail-coverts greenish yellow.

[This identification is doubtless correct.—W. R. O. G.]

† SUTHORA WEBBIANA, Gray.

By post we send two skins, and would be grateful for your opinion as to the correctness of our identification. The specimens we shall be pleased to present to the British Museum.

[Correctly identified.—W. R. O. G.]

† AMAURORNIS AKOOL (Sykes); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxiii. p. 155 (1894).

Four specimens are identical with two sent by De La Touche to the Rev. H. H. Slater from Swatow, and described by the latter in 'The Ibis,' 1891, p. 44, as a new species under the name of *Gallinula* (*Amaurornis*) *coccineipes*.

† CINCLUS PALLASI, Temm.

Eight specimens from this province, compared with six Formosan skins in Mus. de La Touche, show a marked difference in the bill, which is longer and coarser in the Fohkien birds:—

Average culmen in Fohkien birds . . 0·85 inch.

„ „ Formosan birds . . 0·75 „

Otherwise they are much alike.

List No. 2 gives our additions to the Foochow birds published in 'The Ibis' for July 1892, pp. 400 & 477, and 1894, p. 215.

LIST No. 2.
Additions to Foochow List.

Name of Species.	Month.	Remarks.
<i>Phylloscopus reguloides</i>	Oct.	One specimen.
<i>Luscinola schwarzi</i>	"	Winters here.
<i>Urosphena squamiceps</i>	"	Passes on migration.
<i>Pericrocotus cinereus</i>	Sept.	? Do. (3 specimens).
<i>Muscicapa griseisticta</i>	Oct.	? Do. (1 specimen).
<i>Myiagra azurea</i>	Nov.	(1 specimen).
<i>Aquila maculata</i>	Dec.	? Straggler (1 specimen).
<i>Astur soloensis</i>	Sept.	One specimen.
<i>Pelecanus, sp. inc.</i>	Winter visitor on coast.
<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Oct.	Straggler.
<i>Anser albifrons</i>	"	Uncommon.
<i>Excalfactoria chinensis</i>	Dec.	A pair shot by us.
<i>Turnix taigoor</i>	"	One specimen.
<i>Gallinago gallinula</i>	Jan.	Do.
<i>Machetes pugnax</i>	Oct. & Dec.	Two specimens.
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Sept.	

+ GALLINAGO GALLINULA, Linn.

Has not yet been recorded from China. It was a male, shot on 16th January this year.

PELECANUS, sp. inc.

Rickett gave a specimen of this Pelican to the British Museum last year, but it had not been named when he left England. Since then we have obtained two more, and would like to know the species.

[Dr. Sharpe has not yet had an opportunity of examining this specimen, which will be noticed in his forthcoming volume of the Catalogue.—W. R. O. G.]

+ MACHETES PUGNAX (Linn.).

This species has not been previously recorded from China. Rickett shot a specimen in 1895, and subsequently Mr. de La Touche obtained another example from this place.

CICONIA NIGRA (Linn.).

In 'The Ibis,' 1894, p. 224, Rickett suggested the possibility of the specimen he obtained having been brought down from Shanghai. Last October, however, a friend of ours flushed four Black Storks from a creek near the racecourse and shot one.

; ANTHUS RICHARDI, Vieill.

In a letter to Dr. Sharpe (4th December, 1895) Rickett expressed a hope that the birds which he presented to the British Museum, and which had been identified as *Anthus infuscatus* (Blyth), might be re-examined, as he felt sure, from information obtained from the India Museum, that the species was not a good one. The birds Dr. Sharpe referred to *A. infuscatus* were specimens of the larger race of *A. richardi* that winters here. On Rickett's return to Foochow, De La Touche pointed out to him that Swinhoe had already remarked (P. Z. S. 1871, p. 366), "*Corydalla infuscata*, Blyth: race that breeds on the Fohkien hills," thus identifying it with our smaller summer visitor and depriving it of specific rank.

+ TURNIX TAIGOOR, Sykes.

Last December De La Touche shot a female which appears undoubtedly to be of this species. A North-Formosan specimen in that gentleman's collection (also a female, shot in January) differs from this bird as follows:—Buff markings on the upper parts rounder and more drop-like than in the Foochow bird, in which they are more streaky. The Foochow specimen is darker above, owing to the black cross-pencilling of the feathers being more pronounced. Beneath, the Formosan specimen has a greyish-buff throat; rest of underparts reddish ochraceous, deeper and richer on fore neck, breast, and flanks. Middle of fore neck and breast almost unmarked; sides of neck and breast marked with black lunules. In the Foochow specimen the throat is white. Underparts buffish white, boldly barred with black on the fore neck and breast, in the centre of the upper part of which there is an irregular black patch.

Measurements are the same, viz. :—

	Wing.	Tarsus.	Culmen.
	in.	in.	in.
Formosa	3·5	1·1	0·5
Foochow	3·4	1·1	0·5

[The Foochow bird is evidently correctly identified as *T. taigoor*. It is an immature female, as may be seen by the

white throat, irregular black patch on the middle of the fore neck, and whitish-buff underparts, boldly barred with black on the fore neck and breast. It appears to me equally certain that the Formosan example with which it is compared is *T. blanfordi*, which belongs to quite a different section of the genus. We read that the throat is greyish buff; the rest of the underparts reddish ochraceous, deeper and richer on the fore neck, breast, and flanks; the middle of the fore neck and breast almost unmarked, while the sides of the neck and breast are marked with black lunules. Moreover, the upper parts have the buff markings rounder and more drop-like, and the black markings are less pronounced. This description agrees perfectly with *T. blanfordi*, which is common in China, but has never been recorded from Formosa, though there seems to be no reason why it should not occur there.—W. R. O. G.]

XLV.—Notes on some of the West-Indian Humming-birds.

By GEO. E. LODGE, F.Z.S.

THE following notes on the habits of a few species of Humming-birds, made during a visit last winter to some of the West-Indian Islands, will, I hope, not be altogether uninteresting. In these islands Humming-birds are very fairly plentiful, but in no great number of species, most of the islands having only three or four, with the exception of Tobago, which has six or seven, and Trinidad, which has a good many more. But at the last island I made no stay.

The chief thing that occurred to me while making these notes was the fact that drawings of Humming-birds in books of natural history are almost always untrue to nature, which probably arises from the fact that the birds have never been seen alive by the artists. The stuffed Humming-birds one sees in museums are even worse, being gross caricatures, both in shape and attitude, and even the magnificent Gould collection fails entirely in exhibiting the subjects in natural positions.

My stay at each of the islands visited was generally of